Methodist Peace Courier

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THE BISHOPS AND FOREIGN AID

On April 10 the Council of Bishops meeting in Florida spoke pointedly concerning a Christian motivation for foreign aid:

"Political policies based upon the philosophy of the market place are not likely to eventuate in the good will and the mutual respect that a family of peaceful nations requires. Economic aid, technical assistance, reciprocal trade agreements are jeopardized by purblind politicians unable to think in terms of the world which the United States is called upon to serve and to lead. Such persons demand tariff walls, envision Fortress America, and call for more and more devastating bombs and guided missiles.

"Instead of telling the peoples of the world that our economic aid is given because we are children of our Father and because we want a peaceful world, we advise them that such aid is in our own national interest and for the purpose of maintaining our own security. They take us at our word.

"We are well aware of the duplicity of communist leaders with their record of broken pledges, of shackled satellite states, the denial of civil liberties, and the cruel conformity totalitarianism enforces. But we play into communist hands when we identify our humanitarianism with national self interest.

"A reappraisal is called for, one in which the idealism of the American people shall become dominant, in which our objectives are stated affirmatively, and in which our concern for the welfare of all men is made abundantly clear.

"Let policies be designed to carry democracy into economics as well as into politics.

"Let the teacher, the philosopher, the preacher, the missionary, the labor leader, the artist, and the musician be taken into counsel when world-wide policies are being drafted, as well as the business man and the military man."

THE INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICS

(In this year of local and congressional elections the following paragraphs from an address by Prof. Carlo Schmid in Hamburg are meaningful.)

Political parties are not accidental inventions. They became necessary on the day that the franchise was extended to the public, a public in the throes of modern mass society. It is our unfortunate lot today that we are born into the midst of a mass society. And the political party affords us our only protection against the power monopoly of interest groups. For even the smallest and least important of political parties is still possessed of something, when we compare it to interest groups, that something which might be called spirit or intellectual force. It is better, therefore, to join even a bad party, from my point of view, than no party at all.

Nor, should we overlook one thing: Democracy reveals itself in the elections, in parliamentary elections. And how else can candidates be chosen than through organizations, which have been created for this purpose, namely political parties. Not the Election Day is decisive, but the day on which the parties nominate their candidates. It is the quality of their candidates which determines the intellectual level of parliament. You can only help to determine this level, however, if you are able to help select the candidates. And this, in God's name, you can only do by joining a party, by becoming active in its ranks, and by becoming known there yourself.

A local paper pointed out only too justly that the day on which the candidates were entered on electoral lists, that is, six weeks before the elections, eighty percent of the representatives had already been elected, simply because their names were on the list. And you did not

(Continued on Page 4)

NOW IS THE TIME

To express your convictions to the President, The White House, Washington, D.C. on the stopping of nuclear tests. Heavy fallout from recent Russian tests is exceeding the "safe" limit in many parts of the U.S. and the world, but the government plans to proceed with American tests in the Pacific despite the growing danger.

To write your representatives and senators in support of renewing the Reciprocal Trade Act for 5 years as the President has requested -- and without weakening amendments.

VALLEYS OF DECISION ABROAD

Germany

The Adenauer government has approved the equipment of the West German Army with nuclear weapons. This decision must be approved by NATO officials. Already, however, an order has been placed for 24 Matador unmanned bombers and 300 Nike missiles. Both weapons may be fitted with a conventional or nuclear warhead. This decision of the Christian Democratic Union generated reactions in all directions!

It is opposed by powerful groups within the nation: the Social Democratic and Free Democratic parties; leaders of the Trade Union Federation; university professors and students; and large numbers of Protestant clergy. A delegation of the Council of Protestant Churches sought to prevent approval of the action by the Bundestag. Bishops Dibelius, Lilje, and Hennt-rich visited the Chancellor to express Protestant concern over the testing and use of nuclear weapons.

Martin Niemoller, recently re-elected as head of the Lutheran Church in Hesse, spearheads Protestant resistance to the move. On April 7 he flew to Aldermaston in England to speak to 4,000 persons assembled there to protest nuclear testing and weapon making. The bi-monthly publication STIMME DER GEMEINDE, of which he is one of the editors, is comparable to the CHRISTIAN CENTURY in its treatment of national and international issues from a Christian standpoint.

STIMME DER GEMEINDE, however, takes a much more forthright position on atomic warfare than does the CENTURY. It has given much attention to the statements of physicists in West and East Germany, asserting their intention to have nothing to do with the creation of atomic weapons. A recent article on "What is the Christian position on atomic weapons?" took the position that a Christian has no right to use weapons of mass destruction, that it would be better to lose "external" freedom for a period in history than to commit collective suicide.

In Poland much alarm was caused by the Adenauer decision. A leading newspaper in Warsaw compared the action to that of the Reichstag 25 years ago giving full powers to Hitler. Few Poles doubt but that Soviet missile bases will soon be established on Polish territory to match those on West German soil. Gomulka observed, "We have had our own historical experiences with the Germans and we have reason to be apprehensive."

A few days after the West German action, Mr. Gromyko announced Russia's willingness to forego any future atomic tests on the condition that other nations would follow its leadership. He also had some comments about Germany: "Once again the Germans are being treated to the poisonous food of hostility for the Soviet Union, as was done in Hitler Germany ..... The decision to arm the Bundeswehr with atomic bombs and rockets tolls the knell for the unity of Germany and that is what every German should know."

Britain

The British political situation bears many resemblances to that in Germany. The Conservative government in power defends atomic testing, the establishment of missile bases on British soil, foreign policy. The Labor Party, amazingly successful in recent by-elections and smelling victory in 1960, has recently backed a Trades Union Congress platform of no more nuclear tests for Britain, no patrol fligh over British soil by hydrogen bomb carrying pla and a greater zeal in working out a disarmament treaty with Russia. Rejected was a proposal by a section of the Party which would have Britain accept unilateral nuclear disarmament.

In Parliament Geoffrey de Freitas, Labor party spokesman on air defense, said, "We believe that the Government must suspend thermonuclear tests. The government must reverse its policy of allowing bombers based on this country to carry nuclear weapons on patrol. The Government must not allow work on the missile bases to begin until summit talks have been held ..... I am against these American missiles because they are a lot of junk. I am against them because they are a great waste of money."

In early March a play on Independent Television featured "Doomsday for Dyson," a play by J. B. Priestley, in which a hydrogen bomb falls upon London killing a half million and wounding a half million. Dyson kills his wounded family and then commits suicide. The rest of the play is devoted to the question of who is responsible for this tragedy -- the Soviet pilot who dropped the bomb on London, or the U.S. General who ordered a bomb dropped on Yaroslav, or an obscu Soviet Signal Corpsman. After the play four pr inent Britons appeared on the screen and debate its thesis. Among these was Methodist Donald Soper.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is headed by Bertrand Russell and Canon Collins of St.Paul's Cathedral. In the Labor Party itself there is an H Bomb Campaign Committee, including about 60 members of Parliament, which wants neither bombs nor bases of any kind, nor or in the future.

Drew Middleton of THE NEW YORK TIMES in describing this movement in Britain said, "The movement is important to Americans because the objectives of the campaign are contrary to the policies of the U.S. government aswell as to those of the British government. The Communist party has given the movement its fervent support but the movement's origins are not Communist. Its origins are the pacifism, anti-militarism, and evangelism of certain groups ..... in the industrial working class and intelligentsia."

Over the Easter week-end demonstrators trudged thirty-seven miles from a mass meet-

ing of 5,000 in Trafalgar Square to Britain's Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston. There 4,000 men, women, and children marched around the center with placards and listened to speakers from the U.S., Germany, and Britain.

India

At a news conference in New Delhi Prime Minister Nehru greeted the Russian announcement of suspension of nuclear tests with pleasure. He observed that the announcement had come after a series of Russian tests, "but a good step is a good step, whenever taken." He emphasized his concern for the future welfare of mankind because of fallout and that "the announcement by the Soviet Union is welcome, no matter however conditioned it may be."

The thorny problem of what to do with Kashmir came no nearer to solution. Former President of the University of North Carolina, Frank Graham, submitted five recommendations to both India and Pakistan. Pakistan agreed "in principle" with all of them, but Mr. Nehru rejected them on the basis that it amounted to placing an aggressor (Pakistan) and an aggrieved on the same footing.

In the PROGRESSIVE MAGAZINE for January, Senator John F. Kennedy had an excellent article, reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for January 16, on "If India Falls." He noted that India's first five-year plan increased national income by 18% and that the second five-year plan now stands in great peril. He called for special legislation to help India rather than a continuation of reluctance, vacillation, and excessive redtape." Copies may be secured from his office.

IN THE SPRING—RUSSIAN SUBMARINES

On April 13, 1957, there appeared in the Chicago Daily News a clever feature article by Edwin Lahey concerning the tendency of the Pentagon to release news items concerning Russian submarines off the Atlantic coast when military appropriations were being considered by congressional committees:

"The Pentagon is always bearish about peace at this time of the year. These are the weeks that the committees of congress are marking up the military appropriations bills ..... The merest threat of peace, if it came from the Pentagon, could raise Ned with appropriations.

"That is probably why those Russian submarines always appear with the seasonal regularity of the swallows of Capistrano, just when they are going to bat with the Navy appropriation bill on Capitol Hill."

On April 15, 1958, both the Chicago Tribune and the Daily News carried stories about "More Russ Subs Prowl East Coast." Representative Durham of North Carolina, member of the Armed Services Committee, released a statement in Greensboro, asserting that Russian submarine activity had increased recently off the coast and that during 1957 there had been 184 sightings of them!

USSR TEST CHALLENGE

(The following statement by the editor was released to the press immediately upon the announcement of the Soviet Union that it was suspending atomic tests and challenging other nations to do the same.)

"While we have missed the opportunity to be the first country to announce a conclusion to thermonuclear testing, we lose stature among the nations if we merely decry or deride the Soviet statement. Nor should our leaders passively await events to see how Russia will follow this up. We should seize upon the occasion with positive action which will burst open the stalemate and open up channels leading to arms limitation and further safeguards of peace.

"Testing has given rise to fear and apprehension in many countries, especially Japan. It has led to bitter debate in Canada and Britain. It has heightened tensions among some of our allies. It has evoked controversy among scientists over biological and genetic hazards. Benefits of testing must be viewed in the light of these disadvantages.

"Since the policies of the USSR are not openly arrived at in the manner familiar to citizens of free democracies, we cannot presume to appraise all the motivations involved in such a decision. But it behooves us in Christian charity to expect practice to accord with pronouncement unless events prove otherwise.

"Russia cannot claim any originality in making this proclamation. Her statement has been antedated by many pronouncements of responsible church bodies over several years. Recent statements have reaffirmed this position.

"Thus, on August 7, 1957, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches urged 'That as a first step governments conducting tests should forego them, at least for a trial period, either together or individually, in the hope that others will do the same, a new confidence be born, and foundations be laid for reliable agreements.'

"The Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church as recently as last November affirmed: 'We appeal to the United States to give bold leadership looking toward the abolition of atomic tests by and through the United Nations.

"We call upon thoughtful citizens in this crucial matter to exercise a responsible citizenship and to take a vital part in forming public opinion to the end that the cessation of bomb testing by all nations possessing nuclear weapons may be the occasion for constructive solutions of many issues in the East-West conflict."

"Nations are quite capable of starving every other side of life - education, sanitation, housing, public health, everything that contributes to life, physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual, in order to maintain their armaments." From The Choice Before Us by Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson.

PEARSON ON TRADE

Lester B. Pearson of Canada received the Nobel Peace Prize in December. In his address at Oslo he spoke about the four faces of peace: Peace and Trade, Peace and Power, Peace and Diplomacy, and Peace and People. Because of the importance of the trade issue in this session of Congress, we quote some lines from the first section.

"Now the European nations are launching themselves through common market and its associated free trade area, on an adventure in the economic unification of peoples that a few years ago would have seemed completely visionary ... Is it not time to begin to think in terms of an economic interdependence that would bridge the Atlantic; that would at least break down the barrier between dollar and non-dollar countries which, next only to Iron Curtains, has hitherto most sharply divided our post-war One World?"

THE INTELLECTUALS AND POLITICS

(Continued from Page 1)

have the least bit of influence on those who entered on the lists, if you failed to participate, because you remained outside, and if you continue to remain outside, this will continue to happen. They will keep on serving you up with people whom you may not want at all. This is why intellectuals, in particular, should join political parties. You should know that even when you do not participate, your abstention has practical effects insofar as your place may be filled by someone who has no call to be there at all.

THE FAILURE TO ACT

Until the end of the second world war I myself failed to act. I also thought, "My God, political life is horrible, and parties are really dirty. What business of yours is it? Read good books, write a few books yourself, and cultivate your friendships. That is much more beautiful and dignified." But during the time of the Third Reich I asked myself, "Is it not your fault, as well, that this beast has come to govern Germany? If you had not felt so comfortable in your beautiful garden in Tubingen, if you had entered the market square and others with you, then perhaps he would not have succeeded. And because you did not do it, you too are guilty, perhaps more so than some stupid Stormtrooper who did not know any better." I told myself then that I would not become guilty a second time. I left my garden, and I joined a party. Even if this is not beautiful, and even if every week one is forced to take things which are hard to swallow, there is no better way of entering the market square.

The CBS "Twentieth Century" TV program "Ghandi" may in some cases be borrowed without charge from the program sponsor, the Prudential Insurance Company. Send requests to Prudential's W. F. Hedden, Newark, N. J.

AFFAIRS AFAR

NEW YORK: Journalist David Bird outlined the practicability of four existing methods by which atom blasts can be spotted. They are barometric variation, seismic waves, visible light and radioactivity.

SAN FRANCISCO: Chemists described preliminary tests at Lemont, Illinois of a new harmless compound "rhodizonate" which removes high proportions of radioactive strontium 90 from bone. Intake before contamination appears effective.

DE KALB: Dennis Weeks, 14 years old, and 200 teen-age companions drafted and sent a petition against further bomb testing. When Dennis received no acknowledgment from the President, Vice-President, or Secretary of State, after six weeks, he announced he is going to start investigating what became of their petitions. The least he expected was the routine form letter that the Atomic Energy Commission sends to bomb protestors.

CHICAGO: Studies of American college students picture them as "gloriously contented and unbashedly self-centered," according to Mervin B. Freedman, research associate at Vassar, in reporting to the 13th National Conference on Higher Education. He then quoted Philip E. Jacobs of the Hazen Foundations saying: "They aspire for material gratification for themselves and their families."

(From this they don't seem so much different from their elders.)

MINNEAPOLIS: Plans for the World Health Assembl beginning here May 26, including the Tenth Anniversary Session of WHO, have developed to the point that persons interested in attending may obtain information and details from Dr. H. van Zile Hyde, Department of Health and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C.

ST. LOUIS: Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg's important address at his inauguration as President of the National Council of Churches concerning the need for "massive reconciliation" instead of "massive retaliation" continues to evoke so much interest that free copies in any quantity may be obtained from Promoting Enduring Peace, 489 Ocean Avenue, West Haven, Connecticut.

JUST A LITTLE BOMB

The "little, tiny bomb", as AEC's Willard Libby called it, detonated underground and detected 2300 miles away in Alaska, was 1.7 kilotons in size; the Hiroshima A-Bomb was 20 kilotons; the H-Bomb "Bravo" was 14,000. (A "kiloton" is a measure of explosive power equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT.)

This "little, tiny bomb", buried 800 feet deep in a Nevada mountain, pulverized 400,000 tons of rock, moved the mountain six inches and blew a bubble of molten rock 130 feet in diameter.